

FEB 28 2006

EXPEDITED EXAMINING PROCEDURE

PATENT
Docket No. 56842US002IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): MITTLESTADT et al.) Group Art Unit: 3743
Serial No.: 09/888,943) Examiner: Nihir B. Patel
Confirmation No.: 9282)
Filed: 25 June 2001)
For: RESPIRATOR VALVE

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Commissioner for Patents
Attn: Examiner Nihir B. Patel
P.O. Box 1450
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Muetting, Raasch & Gebhardt, P.A.

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Signature: Rachel Gagliardi Gebhardt
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Group 3743PATENT
Docket No. 56842USA4A.002

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Final Office Action mailed 28 December 2005 has been received and reviewed. The pending claims are claims 15-47.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, in view of the following comments, are respectfully requested.

Allowable Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for notification to the effect that claims 15-27 are allowable.

Applicants additionally thank the Examiner for notification to the effect that claims 36, 37, 46, and 47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, for the reasons indicated below, Applicants submit